

MULLAH FISH HATCHERY

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 1991 - December 31, 1991

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INTRODUCTION

The Mullan Hatchery is a resident species redistribution station located four miles east of Mullan, Idaho. The hatchery buildings and grounds are owned by the Shoshone County Sportsmens Association. Maintenance of the physical plant is funded through Shoshone County. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) funds personnel costs, production costs, and equipment through license fee dollars. The facility operates as a satellite of the Clark Fork Hatchery with one 8-month temporary employee on station year-round.

HATCHERY IMPROVEMENTS

The heating system in the hatchery/residence building received extensive modification through cooperative efforts of Shoshone County and the IDFG this year. The oil furnace in the hatchery was replaced with a donated oil stove, while a new chimney and stove pipe was purchased with Shoshone County funds. Electric baseboard heaters were installed in the residence by IDFG.

Painting of the exterior of all buildings was completed by on-site personnel during 1991.

FISH STOCKED OR TRANSFERRED

Approximately 55,000 rainbow trout >9 inches are released in waters of the Coeur d'Alene, St. Joe, and St. Maries river drainages from May to August each year to support a put-and-take fishery. The trout are transferred at full release size from the American Falls and Hayspur hatcheries in southern Idaho.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Mullan Hatchery is located adjacent to a popular Shoshone County "day use" park. As a direct result, the hatchery receives a much higher visitor load than would be expected from its remote location. From April to October 1991, there were an estimated 5,300 visitors, including several tour groups from local schools.

The hatchery maintains a covered visitor information center with a map of stocking areas and information about the special harvest regulations in the Coeur D'Alene River drainage.

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SPECIAL PROJECTS

Personnel at the Mullan Hatchery assisted in an evaluation of the put-and-take fishery on the Little North Fork and North Fork of The Coeur d'Alene River conducted by the Region 1 staff. The trout were marked with reward Floy tags, and tag number by release site data was provided to Region 1 biologists. Preliminary results indicate a return of less than 10% to the creel.

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